CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



American Dipper

Cinclus mexicanus

The dipper is North America's only aquatic songbird, and it does something no other passerine does: it walks straight into a cold mountain torrent and forages on the bottom, gripping the rocks with s…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Cinclidae
Habitat: Mountain streams and rivers
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 5-7 years
Weight: 46-61 grams
Scientific name: Cinclus mexicanus

Did you know?

- Unlike most songbirds, the American Dipper can swim and even walk along the bottom of swift streams, using its wings for balance underwater.
- The bobbing "dip" that gives it its name may be a visual signal that carries against a noisy, moving background where a call would be drowned out. Di…

What I learned

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